

If you are 16 or 17-years old, you must obtain a learner's permit before you can practice driving. The permit must be held for 180 days for home training and 120 days if completing a commercial or secondary driver training course prior to your appointment for the license exam.

Learner's Permit Requirements

Applicants must pass a vision and knowledge test in order to obtain the learner's permit. The permit allows the student to practice with a licensed driver who is at least 20 years old and has held a license for a minimum of four consecutive years. Driving without a permit is a violation of state law and could extend the waiting time necessary to apply for a Connecticut operator's license.

Required Consent

A parent, court-appointed legal guardian, or spouse over 18 years of age, must accompany the applicant in person or provide him/her with a notarized certificate of parental consent (form 2-D). The permit test will NOT be given without consent.

Required Documents

To acquire the learner's permit, the applicant must provide residence verification such as a postmarked letter, magazine, report card, etc. A post office box will not be accepted.

You must bring your certified birth certificate or valid US Passport, in addition to one form of identification from the list of acceptable identification (Photocopies of documents are not acceptable).

Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 666(a) (13)], requires that the Social Security Number of any applicant for a driver's license or learner's permit be recorded on the application.

List of Acceptable Identification

- Military ID or Discharge/Separation Papers
- Certified Adoption Papers
- US Territory or Canadian Photo License (valid or expired)

- Valid Out of State or Canadian learner's permit with photo
- Connecticut Non-Driver ID issued 10/01 or later
- Connecticut Pistol Permit with photo
- Naturalization Certificate
- Valid Foreign Passport with supporting documents as required by I.N.S.
- Parent/Guardian Affidavit (for minors only)
- Baptismal Certificate or similar document
- Marriage License
- Foreign Birth Certificate (translation may be required)
- Pilot's License
- Expired Driver's License
- Connecticut State (DSS) Issued Public Assistance Card with photo
- Employee ID from State or Federal Government with Signature, Photograph and/or Physical Description
- Social Security Card with signature
- Certified School Records
- Court Order
- Divorce Decree
- Expired Passport
- Prison Release Document

All Non-US Citizens Applying for a Connecticut Operator's License or Learner's Permit

- If you are not a citizen of the United States you will be required to show proof of your legal status in this country.
- Holders of B1/B2 Visitor's Visa are not eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit unless a valid Employment Authorization Card (EAC) and verification of an application pending for Lawful Permanent Residence is provided.
- Foreign Students with an F1 Visa status must show Immigration and Naturalization Service (I.N.S.) form I-20 and verification of current enrollment in a Connecticut school.

- J1 Visa holders are required to show INS document IAP-66.
- All applicants will be verified through I.N.S. for legal status before the test will be issued and may be required to submit additional documentation.
- If you are a permanent Resident Alien you must bring your I-551 Resident Alien Card

Test Requirements

There are two parts to the permit test. First, a vision test is administered, followed by a knowledge test consisting of 10 questions. The test fee is \$18. Below is an explanation of each portion of the test:

Vision Test

Minimal vision is evaluated for at least 20/40 in the better eye with or without glasses or contact lenses. Peripheral vision (sight to either side while looking straight ahead) must be 140 degrees or 100 degrees for persons with one eye.

Knowledge Test

In order to pass the knowledge portion of the test, you must answer eight questions correctly. The test is based on the latest edition of the "Connecticut Driver's Manual for New Drivers."

Applicants that fail the knowledge test must wait one day before retesting and will be required to pay \$18 for each re-test.

Test Locations

The permit test is offered at all full-service DMV branch offices and is given on a walk-in basis up to 1/2 hour before the office closes. Some commercial and secondary schools arrange with DMV to administer the test at their site. Tests are NOT given at satellite offices, mobile units, or AAA offices.

Training

Applicants may be trained at home by a:

- parent
- foster parent or legal guardian
- grandparent
- spouse of a married minor applicant

The trainer must sign a statement at the time of the test, which states that the applicant has obtained a learner's permit and successfully completed at least 25 hours of a course of study, which covers all of the material in the Connecticut Driver's Manual.

The student driver must also be given at least eight hours of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction. It is advisable for the home training instructor to use the Connecticut Driver's Manual as a reference for on-the-road training.

If you plan to be home trained, you must also complete a five hour course* through either a commercial or secondary school covering safe driving practices, including the effects of alcohol and drugs on a person operating a motor vehicle, as well as the penalties for alcohol/drug related motor vehicle violations. This course is also applicable to all 16 and 17 year old licensed drivers from out of state who wish to obtain a Connecticut license.

Student drivers should contact their local secondary school or commercial driving school for the approved course.

Classes offered through a commercial or secondary school consist of 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least eight hours of behind-the-wheel on the road training. After successful completion of the courses, the school will issue you a Driver Training Certificate. The original certificate is required in order for you to be eligible for the actual license exam.

***Note:** Effective October 1, 2004, the safe driving practices training course requirement will be increased to eight hours.

Learners Driving Out of State

The Department of Motor Vehicles advises the permit holder to check with proper authorities if planning to drive outside of Connecticut. Learner's permits are not valid in all states. Please contact the state in which you plan to drive for verification.

Scheduling an Appointment

To schedule an appointment for a driver's examination, the applicant must complete the Driver's Exam Appointment Application (form LA-1). The application can be mailed or taken to a branch office along with the examination fee of \$40. Please call 1-800-842-8222 (outside of the Hartford area) or 860-263-5700 (within the Hartford area) to request an application form. Once you have scheduled your appointment, you will receive a confirmation letter. This letter will explain in detail what you will need to bring for the license exam.

If you are taking classes through a commercial or secondary school, the school may make arrangements for you to be tested. Please check with the school before scheduling an appointment through the DMV. Refunds are not issued when appointments are made through both the driving school and DMV.

Passenger Restrictions for Licensed Teenage Drivers

A passenger restriction law went into effect that limits the number and type of passengers that 16 and 17-year-old drivers are allowed to transport in a vehicle after they obtain their driver's license. The teenager may drive alone, however, passenger restrictions apply during the first six months of driving. Please ask for more information about these restrictions when you obtain your learner's permit or driver's license.

Good Luck and Drive Safely!

What Is Required

The Learner's Permit



For 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers

M. Jodi Rell

Governor

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Commissioner

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